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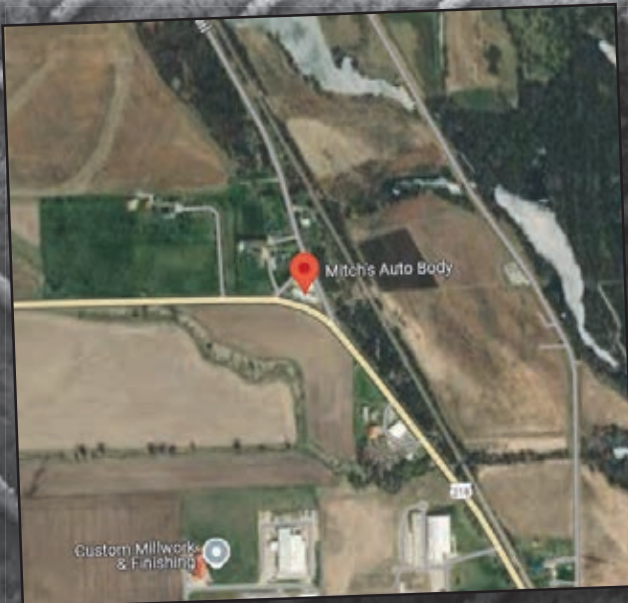
## Spring Car Care

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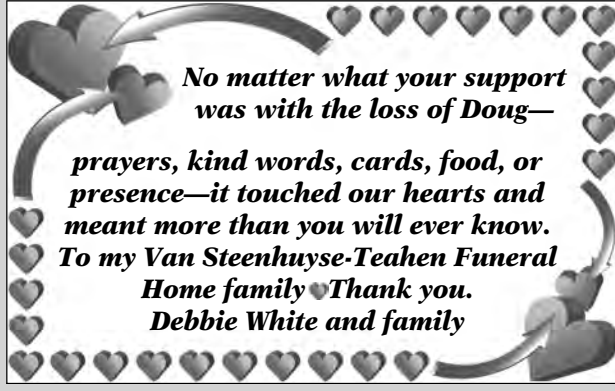
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- ★ Vinton Home Destroyed by Fire.
- ★ Chilly Day Didn't Stop Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt.
- ★ Middle and High School Girls Wrestling Wrap Up Seasons.

See last Friday's Cedar Valley Times for:

- ★ Shellsburg Elementary students enjoying the music of Jazz 88.3 KCCK.
  - ★ VPL Book Talk.
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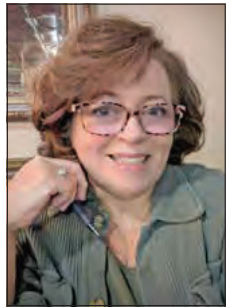
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**Melody Snow**  
 Hometown Girl and Vinton Unlimited Executive Director

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Whether you realize it or not, you are an ambassador of our fine town. An ambassador by definition is a representative, official or unofficial. We are all ambassadors of Vinton. And who better to represent Vinton than those of us that call Vinton home?

If you're like me, you have family and friends who live outside of the community. Do you ever find it interesting that when getting together, they usually assume you'll come to them... in the big city? Why is that?

Is it because they think the city has so much to offer? Sure, cities have a lot of 'stuff', but that doesn't always mean 'better'. Sometimes stuff is just 'stuff'.

You may have noticed that people are seeking out originality. People want experiences that aren't produced by the same "cookie-cutter". They're distancing themselves from those things that are considered 'chain' brands. They're in search of unique specialty shops, one-of-a-kind restaurants, and venues that spark memories. What better place to do that than in Vinton?

Vinton has those things! We're unique. We have an originality all our own. And what's even better is that we present our originality all wrapped up with hospitality, charm, and home-town appeal. We have an amazing gift that's waiting to be discovered and who better to present it than those who experience it every day! Those of us right here in Vinton!

I reiterate, you are all Vinton ambassadors! Stand up for yourselves and this great town we live in! Step up to the plate and be the representative Vinton deserves. Let



others know what they're missing in Vinton. Let them know Vinton is worth the drive!

And when your friends and family do come to town, show them what makes this place special. Take them for a walk downtown or pass the Depot and some of our historic homes and buildings. Share a cup of coffee at Brickside where the barista knows your name. Enjoy the hometown history of H2 Pizza while you savor their cheesy pizza pies. Grab a sweet treat in the retro-inspired Tootsie's Ice Cream & More. Venture beneath the graffitied crook of Stoney Arch. Point out the little details that make Vinton feel like home to you. It's not just about where you go—it's about the stories you tell along the way. Every smile, every friendly wave, every recommendation you give becomes part of their experience. Before long, they won't just be visiting Vinton—they'll be feeling it.

And that's because Vinton isn't just a destination, it's a connection. It's where people matter, where conversations aren't rushed, and where memories are made in the simplest of moments. When you invite others in, you're not just showing them a town—you're introducing them to a way of life. And that's something no big city can replicate.

I'm commissioning you to be that person who believes in their hometown. Represent Vinton in a way that will make us all proud. Be our ambassador! And the next time friends and family ask, "where do you want to go?", be a trend setter and the Vinton ambassador I know you can be! Tell them...

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# Spring Car Care

## "First Car" Love

By **AMY STOURAC**  
NEWS@VINTONNEWSPAPERS.COM

VINTON - For car enthusiast and Vintonian, Craig Ollinger, car care has more to do with the

From 1979 to 2019, the car slept quietly under a layer of dust in a dirt floor of various machine sheds as the farmstead evolved



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG OLLINGER.

Craig Ollinger's 1968 Ford Torino GT

heart than value. This sentiment is evidenced by the complete restoration of his first car, a 1968 Ford Torino GT.

over the years. But the history in those early lives lived on inside the car and in Craig's memory,

so when he retired a few years ago, he dug the Torino out from

under the layers of dirt and had it restored.

"My interest in cars has nothing to do with investments. It's really more to do with the personal aspects of it," he said.

For Craig, his connection to the Torino is definitely personal, as the car was a gift from his father on his 16th Birthday. The gift served a family function too, as it enabled Craig to take over the transporta-

tion for himself and his brother's high school activities. Craig remembers the day the Torino was purchased with fondness.

"It was the first Torino that Ford came out with, and it was a Fairlane that they had badged up to be a performance car. It had all the fun things on it, bucket seats, four speed and all of that. Dad didn't get the big 427 engine that they had back in the day. It

had a 302 in it, which was plenty."

Another feature of this model, important to the teenage Craig, was that it had a trunk big enough to haul his guitar amplifier for the garage band he was in high school.

The Torino saw Craig through high school and college all the way to his first job in the Quad Cities. He courted his high school sweet-

**SEE First Car: Page A7**

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG OLLINGER.

Craig and his wife, before their first trip back to Ames in the Torino as a married couple.

# Spring Car Care

**FIRST Car:** Continued from Page A6



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG OLLINGER.

From the late 70s to 2019, the Torino slept quietly under a layer of dust in a dirt floor machine shed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG OLLINGER.

Above: Another view of the Torino before the restoration. Below: Another important salvaged feature of the restored Torino is the rear window, which still has the original parking sticker from the Ollinger's college days in Ames.

heart, Deb, who became his wife, in the Torino and the couple even brought home their first child in the car. By the time the family made it to the Quad Cities, the car was "pretty much shot," and it "found its way back to the farm," where it remained until Craig dug it out from under the dirt.

"So it was either do something with it, or take it to the junkyard, or part it out or something; there's just a lot of sentimental value. So, I had it restored."

In order to restore the car, Craig purchased a parts car from the southwest United States where rust is not an issue. He did help with some parts of the restoration, mainly clean-up, some mechanical work, as well as the interior, but most of the restoration was hired.

Enough of the Torino's original parts were salvaged, which enabled Craig to keep the original VIN number, but some things about the car are much different than before, including the 347stroked 302 engine with "just under 400 horsepower," power steering, power brakes, air-conditioning, after-market fuel injection, and the vinyl top was replaced with new.

"All you have to do is turn the key and it starts

up. But it's the same top loader, four speed," Craig said. "And a lot of the drive train, transmission, the rear end--all of that stuff is the same. Some of the body panels were salvageable, and a lot of the interior, believe it or not, just had to be recovered."

Another important salvaged feature of the restored Torino is the rear window, which still has the original parking sticker from the Ollinger's college days in Ames, which always reminds Craig of the day he and Deb brought Billy home--in the Torino--from Mary Greely Hospital to their 10X30 1959 Great Lakes mobile home.

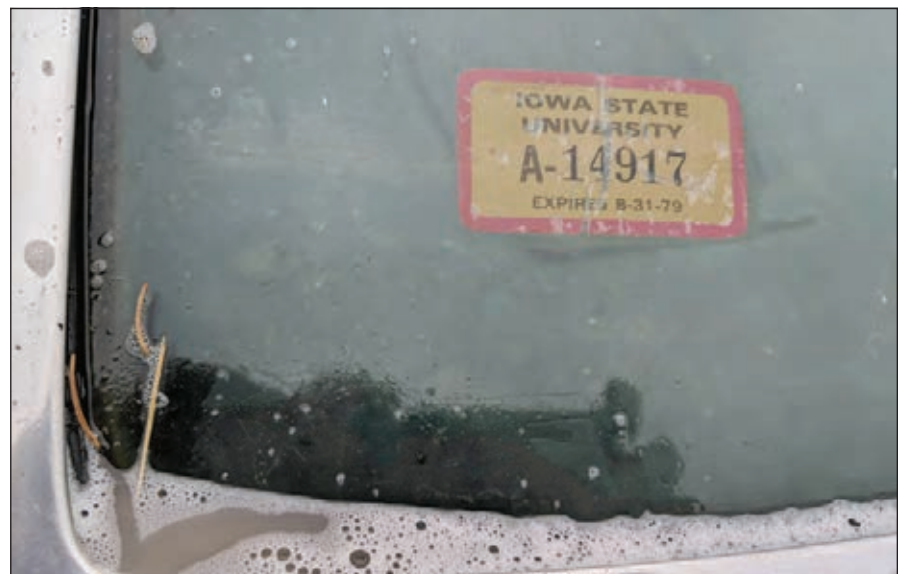
"The Torino was parked out in front of it, and we could get just almost everything we owned, including our son in it at the time," Craig said.

Every few years the Torino makes the rotation for the Annual Vinton Cruise, an event Craig volunteers some of his time and energy towards. In between cruises, the car gets driven often by Craig and his sons.

In a recent conversation with his son, Billy, Craig was speculating whether he should sell the cars someday, so the kids won't have to. When the Torino was

mentioned, Billy said, "I'll make room for that one."

For Craig, this validated his choice to restore the car that has driven "through the generations."



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# Spring Car Care

## 3 simple maintenance strategies that can keep cars running longer

The last few years have not proven the most advantageous times for new car buyers. According to the Consumer Price Index Summary from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, buyers paid 12.2 percent more for new vehicles in January 2022 than they had in January 2021. Faced with such a significant increase in price, many drivers understandably want to keep their current cars longer than they might have initially planned.

Data released by S&P Global Mobility in early 2022 indicated that the average vehicle on the road is 12 years and two months old, which marked the highest number in the 20-plus years such information was tracked. A host of variables affect how long drivers keep their cars, but the rising cost of new vehicles has undoubtedly compelled many drivers to aspire to keep their cars for longer periods of time.

Aging cars may require a little more TLC than vehicles that are right off the dealership lot. But the following are three simple tips that can help drivers keep their cars running longer.

1. Become a more careful driver. A careful approach when behind the wheel is safer than aggressive driving and beneficial for your vehicle. When starting, avoid revving the engine, which needlessly wears it down. When out on the road, avoid rapid accelerations, which also contributes to needless wear and tear. Even excessive

idling can adversely affect the engine, so keep winter warm-ups to around 30 seconds to prevent damage to engine components.

2. Know when and how to fill up. Every driver has likely visited a filling station when an oil tanker is busily filling the tanks. That's traditionally been considered a less than ideal time to fill up, as the theory is that filling the tanks stirs up sediment that could then find its way into consumers' gas tanks, adversely affecting their vehicles. However, that's often dependent on the station itself and how much its owners prioritize maintenance of the tank and filtration systems. Drivers who trust their local station owners can likely fill up when the tankers are present without worry. In addition, avoid topping off once the nozzle clicks when filling up. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that topping off is harmful to the planet and the vehicle, as gasoline needs room to expand. When you top off, the extra gas may damage the vapor collection system and cause the vehicle to run less efficiently.

3. Change oil more frequently as the vehicle ages. It's true that modern vehicles no longer require oil changes for every 3,000 miles driven. However, as vehicles age, drivers and their vehicles' engines may benefit from more frequent oil changes than the owner's manual necessarily recommends. Oil changes remove dirt and metal particles from the engine, potentially contributing to a longer



STORY AND PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

**When filling up their gas tanks, drivers can avoid topping off, which can prove harmful to vehicles over time.**

life expectancy. More frequent changes can be especially beneficial for vehicles that are routinely driven in stop-and-go traffic.

Rising vehicle costs have compelled many drivers to keep their cars longer than they initially planned. Some simple strategies can help drivers achieve that goal. SC233724

## What certain noises may indicate about your car

Automobiles have come a long way since their introduction more than 100 years ago. Though modern cars and trucks still employ some of the same principles as their forebears, the vehicles people drive today bear little resemblance to those that made waves in the early part of the twentieth century.

Modern automobiles are technological marvels, which has made both driving and maintaining a vehicle much simpler. In regard to maintenance, built-in diagnostic systems can now alert drivers when something is wrong with their vehicles. Though that feature is undeniably useful, drivers can still benefit from learning to recognize issues by ear. Many issues that can affect a car or truck produce unusual sounds, and learning what certain noises may indicate can help drivers detect problems as soon as possible.

• **Rattling sound in a wheel well:** Most people have mistakenly placed clothing in a dryer without realizing they had spare change in their pockets. That mistake is immediately apparent once the dryer starts thanks to the unpleasant noise of coins bouncing off the interior of the machine. Drivers may hear a similar sound when behind the wheel and wonder what's behind it. Such a sound is often indicative that there's a loose lug nut inside the hubcap. This issue can arise when drivers don't tighten the wheel properly after changing their own tire, or if me-

chanics make the same mistake when rotating or replacing tires during a routine maintenance session.

• **Squeaking sound:** The auto insurance experts at Geico® note that rear-wheel or four-wheel drive vehicles may produce a rhythmic squeaking sound when an issue arises with the universal joint. JD Power notes that the universal joint, often referred to as a U-joint, is part of the system that enables the rotating crankshaft in the engine of a vehicle to transfer that rotating motion to the rear wheels. U-joints get a workout whenever vehicles are driven, so they require maintenance, and a squeaking sound is one indicator that the U-joint needs to be addressed immediately.

• **Squealing sound:** A high-pitched squealing sound is typically indicative of worn out brake pads. However, Cars.com notes that if such a sound is only present when a car is first driven in the morning, it could just be surface rust being scraped off the rotors. After a few initial applications of the brakes, that sound might disappear. If it doesn't, the vehicle will likely need new brake pads.

• **Scraping on the windshield during rain:** The scraping sound on a windshield when the wipers are in use should not be taken lightly or be interpreted as a sign that the rain is only falling slightly. In fact, that sound indicates the wipers are worn out, which means they're not effectively clearing the windshield. In addition, the wipers



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**Many issues that can affect a car or truck produce unusual sounds, and learning what certain noises may indicate can help drivers detect problems as soon as possible.**

could be scratching the windshield each time they produce this sound, ultimately necessitating a costly windshield replacement. Wiper blades can be replaced in a matter of minutes, so address this issue promptly.

Learning to recognize the culprits behind various vehicle noises can help drivers nip problems in the bud before they compromise the automobile and the safety of the people inside it. SC233730

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- Food Associate FT, 11:30 to 8pm.
- A/R Specialist FT M-F, Primary duty is posting insurance/patient payments. within the EPIC EHR System. Basic insurance knowledge preferred.
- LPN/RN FT 12N with 1 weekend every 12 weeks.
- RN/LPN PRN as needed.

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